

VZCZCXRO4019
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #0102 0100915
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 100915Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4602
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 9498
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 3011
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNS/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 000102

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, PM, S/CT, AND EAP/MTS
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO AND J5
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (TOOLAN/BAILEY)
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2017

TAGS: [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [MCAP](#) [PREL](#) [RP](#)

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE MILITARY KILLS ASG URBAN TERRORIST
GROUP LEADER

REF: A. MANILA 0068

[1](#)B. MANILA 0072

Classified By: (U) Acting DCM Scott Bellard for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C/REL AUS) In follow up to the successful January 6 operation that led to the deaths of five Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists and one suspected Jemaah Islamiyah operative near the southern island of Tawi-Tawi (ref a), elements of Military Intelligence Group-9, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Scout Rangers killed Binang Sali AKA Abu Freedom in a January 9 raid on Sali's safe house near the town of Patikul on the island of Jolo. Sali was a leader of the ASG's Urban Terrorist Group and the subject of a reward (amount to be determined) under the U.S. Department of Defense's Rewards program. He was responsible for numerous assassinations and kidnappings.

[1](#)2. (U) Including Sali, the Armed Forces of the Philippines have to date killed 38 terrorists and captured 15 others since the August 1, 2006 onset of "Operation Ultimatum" on Jolo.

[1](#)3. (C/REL AUS) Comment: the January 6 and January 9 actions reflect the Philippine military's increasing ability -- with U.S. help -- to link intelligence to operations. Both operations also demonstrated improved operations security and compartmentalization, as well as the determination of the Philippine government -- with President Arroyo's full and highly visible support (ref b) -- to go after all terrorists in the Philippines, including the high-value targets still believed to be in hiding in northeast Jolo.

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Jones